

**Cienega Watershed Partnership  
Oral History Interview  
with**

**George Proctor  
August 3, 2012**

**Interview conducted by Mikel Christian Stone and Alison  
Bunting**

**Transcribed by Mikel Christian Stone, 2012**

**Edited by Alison Bunting, 2012**

**Interview Summary:** George Proctor discusses water resources and water politics in southern Arizona. He reflects on his career in the Forest Service and shares his observations of changes in the local climate as well as the habits of native wildlife. Mr. Proctor also describes his family's experiences in ranching and homesteading in southern Arizona, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

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Back Then Project  
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MIKEL STONE (MS): Greetings, today is August 3rd, 2012. My name is Mikel Stone and present here we have...

ALISON BUNTING (AB): Alison Bunting

FRAN RUSSELL (FR): Fran Russell

MS: Today we will be interviewing Mr. George Proctor, for the Cienega Watershed Partnership's Back Then Project. And so I want to say good morning, and, I think that before we begin, I'd like to confirm that that you've given permission to the Cienega Watershed Partnership to conduct this interview.

GEORGE PROCTOR (GP): Yes...

MS: Okay.

GP: So, anything...You'll go right ahead and I'd like to state that I was born in Tucson. Only because I was the third trip of eight. Mother went from the ranch, in Box Canyon, the Santa Rita Experimental Station and then we moved over Madera Canyon. But I went through the eighth grade there, at Continental, and the only high school was in Tucson, Arizona. So I had to go to high school and I graduated from high school '37 and then, eventually went to the university.

MS: So your mother had to go from the Box Canyon to Tucson?

GP: Yes. Madera Canyon to Tucson, yes. And, I was the third trip of eight.

MS: Well, I think I'd like to ask about your family coming to Arizona. I understand that your Grandfather and his brothers moved from...is it Vermont?

GP: They, my Granddad--and I was just looking at it--he was born in Vermont. And he came across by water over to the [Panama] isthmus, when was about five or six. And then they crossed over by rail, they say, someplace or by wagon, I don't know. Crossed over in to the other [Pacific] ocean and then they, they moved on up to California on up to California to Paso Robles, I believe. Paso Robles and then, but my granddad and my great-uncle came in from California into southern Arizona.

MS: What brought them here? What drew them to Arizona?

GP: They were interested in ranch business and that's what they went into.

AB: Did they have a job when they came? Or did they find it when they got here?

GP: They didn't have a job. There were three brothers, my Granddad Charles, Great Uncle Frank and Great Uncle Henry. Henry was the youngest one, and they got tired of him and when they came to the Colorado River Henry was sent back to the parents' home in California. My great-uncle [Frank], and my granddad [Charles] went into ranching, in fact, they brought in some horses from California and had quite a few horses and they came over in first area they came over to Agua Caliente. By Amado and there were the big Agua Caliente springs.

The spring, I remember when I was a kid, there was a huge fig tree where the water used to flow from the springs, from the mountains and it was a wonderful area. And I remember when I was a kid, much talk about watershed. The spring is no longer, the Agua Caliente springs like they used to be years ago. The water table been dropped. It stopped there, so but to finish with the question, then my granddad moved into the Arivaca, in the area in close to Nogales.

GP: Nogales. It was not very active then but it by Great-uncle Frank, he, was a kind of a politician I guess, both. He was a Sheriff of Pima County, my great-uncle.

FR: Frank Proctor?

GP: Frank Proctor.

MS: Mr. Proctor do you know when exactly or would you guess when that Agua Caliente spring failed?

GP: Failed? It had to fail in recent years, I believe, because before the war...in and I am talking about WWII, the spring was still percolating.

GP: Still going, flowing.

AB: But maybe in the last ten years it's dried up?

GP: Oh, before then.

AB: Oh, before then.

GP: Before then. It's interesting then I'm talking about my grandparents, mother's people came out of Mexico. And, in fact, mother had come across the line and there had been free access coming back and forth. And there she married my dad in Tubac.

MS: Can you recall any stories about surviving drought when your family was ranching? Any drought experiences that they had out on the range?

GP: Yes. Definitely. Drought is part of it. And I remember when we had cattle up there and we expected the rain, what we call monsoon, now, we didn't call it monsoon. We had...

FR: Summer rains.

GP: Summer rains. There were mostly July and August and then when we expected rain and it did come through and I remember the ranch house in Madera Canyon was close to the canyon. Then there was a little mesa on the back, it was about three hundred yards then there was a mesa on back and when the normal rains didn't come in I remember my dad used to go up there after sundown and we used to sit up there on the mesa and look east and see if my dad could see any lightning flash at night...

That was, we didn't have a radio or a TV, and that was a sign, we knew when the rain was coming in the very near future--with the lightning strikes. And we'd sit, we'd go back and we could expect it, some rain within few years...a few days, I mean. Probably a week or so rain would come in from the east, go over the mountain.

AB: So, were there times when it was difficult to get out of Madera Canyon because of flooding?

GP: Oh definitely. Definitely. We came in by wagon, it was the transportation, and then somebody got a Model-T Ford and then dad got a Model-T Ford you had to crank the thing and we had to build...the road used to come in from the Helvetia area in it came in below Madera Canyon and then go to Canoa, above Canoa there was the connection.

AB: Oh, okay.

GP: And from Canoa come on over towards Madera Canyon, go to Helvetia that area. But there were, my granddad was ranching into ... he was in the ranching business. And then they had, a sawmill, the first sawmill in the Arizona Territory and it was established in 1854, I believe and my granddad worked at the sawmill and that's how come he squatted into the old Box Canyon place.

AB: Was that the sawmill that Fish owned? Mr. Fish who was a Tucson businessman?

GP: Well, I don't know who owned it, but because later on, he was superintendent of the state prison in Yuma.

AB: Your Grandfather?

GP: No, this manager.

AB: Oh, the manger of the sawmill?

GP: The sawmill, that's where my dad, my granddad became very good friends with the manager and then later on he became superintendent of the state territorial prison in Yuma.

AB: Because, you may know I work with the Empire Ranch history and in some of our historical accounts it says that Fish owned the sawmill in the Santa Ritas and that's where some of the wood came...

GP: Later on, maybe he became...

AB: Maybe...

GP: Because Fish I should have looked and I should have the name of the superintendent.

AB: Or we can maybe look it up?

GP: Yes.

AB: Right?

MS: So, I wonder what the...ranchers, what your father did in, in times of...when the rains weren't coming. When it was...?

GP: Range was open country. Open country and that's where the droughts come in because the heaviest droughts in the area was in around 1898. I believe. And cattle just stacked, laid down and died. There was dead cattle. That's what we had, mostly dead cattle and the range was open country. There's no doubt it was over-grazed and we had droughts in the area because we talk about droughts and then, the rainy weather...mother's people were in farming out of the Phoenix area. They flooded and they flooded out in 1898. And then they moved further in, lived in Phoenix and then they flooded out again just before WWI, in 1917.

AB: So it was drought in southern Arizona but there was some flooding because of the overgrazing? Or...

GP: No, rains come and go...like right now we've had a heck of a dry season. But, I take the weather, not the weather, the precipitation records for the weather bureau and what did we get? August, for July we got 8 point...

FR: Almost 9 inches.

GP: Almost 9 inches.

AB: Here in Patagonia?

GP: In Patagonia. For August, but June back here, we didn't have any.

GP: Here we had the heaviest, one of the heaviest years. And I have been taking the weather, the precipitation records, here since '75 [1975].

AB: So you have rainfall records from '75...

GP: Yes.

AB: ...'till now, that you've kept?

GP: Yes. For the weather bureau.

AB: Do you write them down or do you report them to the...

GP: I report it. I have a form right there...

AB: We're also interested in rainfall records...who's been keeping them, so that if anybody wants to do comparisons we can see records that people have kept. So you report yours though, to the weather service?

GP: I send it in at the end of the month.

MS: That's great. So, when was the last major drought that you experienced? Would you say?

GP: Last drought?

AB: You mentioned the one in 1898. Do you remember droughts, big ones, between that and today?

GP: Well, the biggest one was during the FDR, Roosevelt administration, that was a big drought.

FR: The Depression...

AB: The Depression?

GP: Depression. Yes. You could...there's where I went into moonshining...then I still have the still down there in the museum.

FR: Alison has seen that.

AB: Yes I have.

GP: But you couldn't do a thing. You had a few cows, you could butcher it, you could milk it, and eat it, but, you couldn't sell it. During the Roosevelt administration, he was buying cows, twelve dollars a cow. Calves were going for six dollars. And that was during the Roosevelt administration when he came in, cattle were starving to death also. There were the biggest droughts around the area. Because we've had droughts they come and go. And you had a drought area here, but you don't have a drought some other place.

AB: It's like you got nine inches in July in Patagonia and where I live in Sonoita we have one-and-a-half inches.

GP: And I was up there, looking over the country. Elgin, part of Elgin it's just a difference in the world. A fly is bothering me!

FR: Well, I gave us some ammunition [gesturing toward flyswatters] [Laughter all around] Feel free to swat.

GP: But, no-in Elgin, Elgin school and back up towards the highway... very little rain.

AB: Yes. We've been very jealous of the rain you've been getting down here. Tell us a little bit about the Forest Service. What got you working for the Forest Service?

GP: Well, the Forest Service was a heck of a good outfit. And my dad he had a permit with the Forest Service all for the Experimental Range, the Santa Rita Experimental Range was managed by the Forest Service. But it was mostly on research so I knew the Forest Service then. I remember Fred Wynn. He was a supervisor in the Apache [National Forest], then he transferred to the Coronado National Forest and dad I went in to Tucson to visit. We didn't have an appointment, you just walked in there. And then walked in, I walked in with my dad, as a kid, and then my dad told the clerk that he, who he was, and was going to visit, wanted to see the supervisor. "He's busy! He's busy now..." and a voice came from the..."It's okay," called to the girl, "let him in. Come in Charlie." [Laughter all around] "Come in Charlie." and he was busy, Fred Wynn and who was the company...he was a representative then. Later on who became a senator, Arizona senate?

AB: Oh I, I can't remember his name either; he was a senator for many years, right? It will come to us...

GP: Yeah, it will come to us. And then he was a representative, he later on became a senator...Hayden!

AB: Hayden, yes, Senator Hayden.

MS: So I understand that you started working with the Forest Service fighting a fire in the Santa Ritas....

GP: I used to ride, we used to take care of the cattle at the ranch and I used to ride other places for others. I used to cow punch at that time they had a fire on the Santa Ritas, and then I decided I'd ride up there because my dad, all the people were on the fire. I figured I knew the fire boss and all that, I'd get a free meal. I rode up there and I got a free meal also, but they needed water. From the base camp over to the camp they put me hauling water and that was in 1933. It was a record in 1933...

FR: How did you haul this water?

GP: Haul the...well you're asking me to go into moonshining again [Laughter all around]. We, I had about five mules and a horse I rode, and then, I had five-gallon kegs, two of 'em, hanging from the back of the saddle with a rope and, sometimes I carried two, two-gallon kegs also besides the ten-gallon of water from the saddle horn. And that's how I held, hauled the water and then, later on I got to the main camp I supplied the main camp, then I hauled water to the fire lines. And it's a matter of record; I was getting forty-five cents an hour.

AB: Now, was this water for the firefighters to drink?

GP: To drink, yes.

AB: Where did you get the water?

GP: They hauled it in to base, into the trail. The truck, and then I, they had me fill the kegs with water and I hauled it all on five mules.

MS: Five mules! Would you say that that was a particularly dry year, was that very a dry year in 1933?

GP: Yes. Because it burned, and again we talk about watershed, but in a Forest Service it's good, but talking about watershed. But what is watershed? That fire, I rode in that particular area where we had that fire in '33. That was my dad's range allotment on the forest and I kept riding in there but I rode in there three or four years ago and the shrubs, the trees, the vegetation was so heavy, you couldn't even, I could hardly ride through there.

AB: So the fire, is important, to have...

GP: It is important. But, again, what is important? Right now, they have a big organization. I used to fight fire in, throughout the region. I fought fire against the Canadian border, Sand Point, Idaho, California, all in through there I went and I fought fire. But now --they wouldn't have me. They get up there and look where...but, in Florida Pass in the Santa Ritas, you go in from Gardner Canyon up on top, a beautiful area, naturally open area, for some reason it just grew. From the pass up there you come up into chaparral there's a beautiful spring.

AB: is that Melendrez Pass?

GP: No. Melendrez Pass is off on the other side. And what I am talking about is the...

AB: Up in Temporal?

GP: In Temporal. I believe the spring is [unclear] something like that, you know. It's a beautiful area, huge yellow pines, favorable growth, favorable environment, and beautiful, produced a beautiful area. We used to go in through there, now I talked to, when they had the Florida Pass fire.

AB: A couple of years ago, right?

GP: Yes. They had a spokeswoman, and she gave quite a speech for the people, says beautiful words, she described a beautiful burn. Now Florida Pass, that beautiful area, gone. The spring up on top, nothing but erosion. The whole situation is gone. But the woman described it as a beautiful burn. I wrote to the [Arizona Daily] Star, and I wrote a pretty reasonable letter. I never got a reply. But they let it burn for way out here on this side. They were able to protect from one end of the mountain, over to the pass, in... the whole situation is gone. Those beautiful spots are gone. So I'm not anti-fire, but a good fire is a good one. If it's burnt properly, it's a use, it's a tool that you have to manage, that you have to control. A fire can get so hot, it will sterilize the soil, make it water repellent. Hot fire is detrimental.

AB: So it needs to be managed?

GP: It needs to be managed, that's right.

AB: Tell us where you worked in the Forest Service? Did you work mostly in southern Arizona?

GP: No, the Forest Service is divided, broken into regions. There are eight regions in the Forest Service. Southwest region, Arizona, New Mexico, Panhandle of Texas and Oklahoma. Is[Region] three. And I was, and anybody who works for the Forest Service, according to the people, is a ranger. But the ranger is in charge of the Ranger District, he's the ranger. I was the ranger at three different districts but the Coyote[Ranger District] are but first, the Jicarilla on the Carson was my first Ranger District. I transferred to the Mount Taylor on the Cibola, transferred to the Coyote in Santa Fe, the Coyote out of Cuba, and I was a ranger for three districts. Then I was assistant supervisor in charge of ranging wildlife on the Carson. Later on, I was the chief of range management for the range management Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and the grassland Texas and Oklahoma. And then, I was supervisor of the Carson in Taos, supervisor of the Apache, Springerville, Supervisor of the Cibola, and then I was promoted to assistant regional forester in watershed management in State and

Private Forestry. State and Private Forestry dealing with the other agencies, that's in, there's where I was when I retired.

FR: And the regional offices in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

AB: So you spent a lot of time in New Mexico.

GP: Yes. Cibola, close to Santa Fe, and the Cibola are in NM, but the Apache is in Springerville [Arizona].

MS: Mr. Proctor, do you think, what kind of changes do you think have taken place in the climate here in southern Arizona? Have things been getting dryer, or wetter?

GP: It's definitely getting dryer. And I believe it's hotter. But, that's a cowboy estimate [smile in his voice] and I took care of a lot of country and both, and I'm talking about my observation. When I was on a district, I had to have a complete weather report every day on the district. And I coordinated with the weather bureau so, I do have that information, and I can say I do believe that it is getting dryer and hotter.

MS: In light of that, have you, what kind of changes have you noticed in the habits of the plants and animals here in Arizona? For instance, I understand that there were beavers in the Cienegas at one point in time...

GP: We didn't have any javelinas in Madera Canyon. Very few in there, there was a woman [Victoria Morales, whose husband worked for Tony Amado] that was down below, several miles from the ranch. She used to trap. And we were kids, she'd trap, she used to trap for fox, coyotes, and all that, but she caught a javelina. We went miles to see what the hell a javelina looked like. There weren't any! There weren't any! My dad, went to school at Sahuarita, he had a stagecoach stop down there by Continental. He went to first, second, and third grade in Sahuarita and then he moved to Box Canyon, believe it or not, there was a school at Helvetia, then my dad moved to the, from the La Tesota stagecoach stop that they had up there on the Salt River, not the Salt River, the Santa Cruz river. My dad, my granddad moved the family over to Box Canyon. He went to the third, fourth and fifth grade in Helvetia. And the point I am trying to make is that my dad, later on he had the ranch he ran cattle in. We were riding to Continental school but we were riding up high in the Box Canyon and the dogs treed a Coatimundi, a *chulo*, my dad was in there, Henry another uncle, I was in there, that Coatimundi was treed by the dogs, my dad was raised in there, Box Canyon, he didn't know what the Coatimundi was. So, right now you can, I, one time I counted seventy-two *chulos*, Coatimundi. They came in later. So, there is a story of the javelina, the Coatimundi.

FR: Is there, is there a weather trend, to the fact that these animals are coming up out of Mexico permanently; does the weather trend have anything to do with them coming north?

GP: I think it, the weather, the environment is changing that much. that animals are coming back, coming up higher.

AB: So they, you, they migrated mostly from Mexico then?

GP: Yes. Migrated.

FR: Why did the wild turkey disappear in the Box Canyon, Madera canyon area?

GP: They, my dad claimed that in 1915, they found a wild turkey's nest on a [unclear] oh above that recreation area, in spring, 1915. Must have been the last turkey that they saw in there. One of the last turkey and they disappeared.

FR: Would the droughts have something to do with that then?

GP: No. Everybody, droughts, poachers, everybody.

FR: Now they have been reintroduced now, too, which is good...

AB: When, when your family was ranching and grazing in the Box Canyon area, what water sources did they use for their cattle?

GP: They had a well up there at the, where the headquarters was and the springs used to, we used to have springs. Box Canyon used to run three feet. The Civilian Conservation Corps during the Roosevelt administration. They put in three concrete dams in Box Canyon. Then, we had the canyon at Madera Canyon used to run most the time.

AB: Is that called Madera Canyon Spring, or?

GP: Madera...eh, well, I went in to see one of the teachers—Gridley-- in Tucson just before he died. And I called him up on the phone, "You probably don't remember me because I graduated from high school." "Oh," he says, "you are one of the White House Canyon kids." It was the White House...

AB: White House...

GP: But then, they named it later on Madera Canyon, but they didn't like Madera Canyon post office. They didn't like... White House Canyon was too long, so they changed to Madera Canyon. Dusenberry did that.

MS: How reliable were the, were the, were the wells and the springs?

GP: What?

MS: How reliable were those, were the springs or the well? In Madera Canyon?

GP: Hit me again.

MS: How reliable was that well, that water source?

FR: Did it dry up?

GP: It was pretty reliable, because we moved from the Box Canyon over to Madera Canyon. We didn't have any other source other than the creek.

FR: You eventually dug a well didn't you?

GP: Oh we dug, oh yes. We dug several wells through there but all the springs were very reliable.

AB: How many cattle did your family run on an average?

GP: On average they, they had about one hundred and fifty head. And then sometimes they had more. Box Canyon, Santa Rita Experimental Station, quite a few more.

AB: So it depended on the weather and the...

GP: Yeah.

AB: ...and how much grazing was available?

FR: You told me at one point that there were artesian wells?

GP: Okay. We have a museum and we tried to get Pima County to take it over. And an area that we have selected is Canoa, old Canoa Ranch.

AB: Ah!

GP: Because it was a land grant. Years ago, believe it or not, when this was Mexican territory right in here, mother's people at one time owned Canoa Ranch.

AB: Really?

GP: Canoa Ranch had seven, at one time, years ago had seven artesian wells. Seven artesian wells.

AB: Do those still exist today?

GP: No. My granddad was foreman for the Maish and Driscoll. And he gathered thousands of cattle to deliver to the Indian reservation, but I used to know the people at Canoa Ranch and the Spanish, Spaniards ditched from the Santa Cruz to the Canoa Ranch. They put in rock and gravel and sand and got it there and then they had ditches. When I was a kid, we used to go down there and fish for catfish at the ditch.

AB: The ditches off the Santa Cruz?

GP: Down at Canoa Ranch and what is now? Can you fish catfish? There's a sign, signs of the ditch where we caught fish--catfish, years ago.

AB: Did you spend much time over on the east side of the Santa Rita's, like in the Cienega Creek? Did you explore in that area when you were a young man?

GP: Well, I was fireguard for, and I had a summer detail with the Forest Service, headquarters for the Santa Rita forest was at Rosemont.

AB: Oh, okay.

GP: Rosemont, eventually, they rolled it over to Patagonia. I worked on summer jobs for several years before I got drafted. And I know all the trails, all the trails and I've pulled any detail that professional people couldn't handle, I'd handle.

AB: Was, did you do any fishing in the Cienega Creek? Was there fish in the Cienega?

GP: [shakes his head no]

AB: No.

MS: Do you remember seeing beavers in the Cienegas?

GP: No. But, I remember in, I'm not anti-conservation. I'm management. But, the Nature Conservancy, they were extreme people. Extreme people. They, at one time, filed for all water rights in Sonoita Creek. Patagonia doesn't have water rights now. But, what are the Nature Conservancy going to do? They're going to take all that water and what were they going to do? Probably be extremists. And at one time, Nogales filed for all surface and sub-surface [water rights] from Sonoita, clean over to Nogales. Then the Santa Cruz River, you know where Santa Cruz River starts? It starts at the San Rafael valley goes over into Mexico, and comes back. Then I was fighting all these people that were fighting or filing for water rights in Sonoita Creek, drying Patagonia. Patagonia people, at one time, were Spanish American. Now, old people, they didn't understand water rights, they used water all since [unclear], years ago so, they didn't file for water rights. And, I tried to get people involved on fighting Nogales and I can show you, matter of record, where I was the only one in

the area that opposed Nogales filling. I couldn't get anybody I was only a single individual that fought Nogales.

AB: When was this? In the...

GP: I...

FR: 80's?

GP: Yes. I guess, about that time but I have records, and finally I got Rio Rico involved. And I can agitate people and I got Rio Rico, Rio Rico hired a law firm and we whipped Nogales. It wasn't the people here...

AB: It's difficult sometimes to get people...

GP: Is it? Is it different? Who said so?

AB: It's difficult, I said.

GP: Oh, difficult.

AB: Yeah.

GP: Oh yeah. Okay. Not tow, two, three, four, five years ago they had a meeting, big old meeting, with the Patagonia association. And they had a meeting on Saturday. I was going to get some people involved and had a big meeting. The do-gooders, you know who I'm talking about...

AB: The do-gooders? Which ones? [Laughs] There's lots of them...

GP: But anyway, I was the only one. They said to, only one individual, five minutes, that's all you're allowed. They had a stacked meeting. They came to me, 'your two minutes are up, George.' I had a young lady finally grab me by the shoulders [he laughs], took me and then, few days later they had a meeting, council meeting in Sonoita, I mean in Patagonia. I had a stacked meeting. I really stacked it. And I can agitate people. And I took after this city councilor, he was one was running for mayor, another one. And officially the mayor, the one that's the councilman that's running for mayor he called me a jerk [laughter all around].

FR: it's on record.

GP: It's on record. And I didn't even have the, my people, they took after the councilman they made him apologize. I didn't even have to get mad and I let my people go and we whipped 'em. We whipped 'em, really whipped 'em. And the Nature Conservancy--Jeffrey Cooper.

AB: Oh right.

GP: What's his background? What's his education? I liked Cooper, he crossed the street to go shake my hand and, and I'm real, I like Cooper, but, when he was with the Nature Conservancy, I didn't like him.

AB: [laughs]

FR: Would you say though George that um, oh things aren't too much different today then they have been along because water has always been a source of contention for everyone.

GP: That's right.

FR: And...

GP: Okay.

FR: ...your grandfather and, great-grandfather...

GP: I had a water case, there in the regional office when I was assistant regional forester. They brought in an attorney from the Washington office and he was reviewing, I reviewed different cases for him, and he says "I ran into..." He called me into his office, and says, "I ran into a case, Proctor vs. Cortero Farms, or vice versa." Cortero Farms dug some deep wells, put some heavy equipment, they were pumping my great-uncle dry. Well, he dug deeper wells, put in some heavier equipment, Cortero Farms continued, lowering the water table, so he took 'em to court. He whipped 'em.

AB: Don't mess with the Proctors! [Laughter all around]

GP: They, he got water at cost. Right now, I went into a meeting at the university, with farmers and Chinese who got part of the farm, there still getting water at cost.

AB: Hmm.

GP: And, but, water is very important. And what are you going to do? Patagonia says I don't have water rights. But, you take...and New Mexico was way ahead of Arizona. They had Steve Reynolds. He was a water rights attorney. And New Mexico was ahead of Arizona. But, Arizona passed I believe, when was the water filing went into effect, '77?

AB: I think so. In that period.

GP: And then, we've had to file but, again, I have a well. I have a water rights, thirty-five feet. The state was pressured, political pressure, wants to lower the water rights requirements from my thirty-five feet to ten gallons.

AB: Hmm.

GP: Legislature can do it. But, I have a thirty-five foot, thirty-five gallon a minute. Does that mean that the state can say, "No, you don't have a thirty--water right for thirty-five gallon, we're giving you ten gallons per minute." Are they getting involved into property rights? These are the things that have to be determined.

AB: Right, and watched.

GP: And, the state is very political. Very political, and there's so much going on, on environment people are, I referred to you people, that are getting more knowledgeable and you're digging into and the Sonoita Creek was owned privately at one time. They tried to give it to the town of Patagonia.

AB: Town wouldn't take it?

GP: Nope. But finally, the Nature Conservancy come in. I have the deed of transfer. They can do this and that, the Nature Conservancy can do this and that, to enhance the value of the Nature Conservancy, the creek, but they're not supposed to have a [unclear]. It's in there. But the Nature Conservancy, they build up they have a [unclear] for the people up there strictly against they can lose the rights the land but what can Patagonia do now? We thought, I thought that Patagonia was in good shape, and we were able to whip Nogales because under the Spanish law and the first, this was Mexican territory, and the Gadsden purchase, the boundary established was established on the Gila. But this was Mexican territory. And then this area was from the Gila to the present boundary was purchased by the American government. And, so, that's how come we're Mexican-- I mean Spanish territory. But after, before the boundary was established in here we were Mexican territory here. And that's what--we were very much involved in Mexican water rights. Because the water rights in Spain and the *siete partidos*, seven partnerships, for the, just published by the University of Arizona and, but...New Mexico was way ahead of Arizona.

AB: Well, I think that we've pretty much covered all the questions that we had. I do have, Shela McFarlin, who was hoping to be here today was unable to because her dog's stitches split apart, but she asked me to ask you about the story of the dog who would take his sack lunch [laughter all around]. She can't imagine her own dog ever taking a sack lunch because he would eat it all before he left home, but...

GP: Well, there used to be a lot of sheep in this part of the country, there were a band of sheep over 3,000 head, there on the other side, they wintered in Sahuarita. And then there were the sheep camps, there were lot of soldiers in the area and they

had to feed 'em and that's where the sheep come in. And my granddad had sheep, a few sheep and goats he used to run them into the high country, there where the dam is. Way up there in high country. And, they had sheep and goats up there and they used to have a shepherd with them, sometimes the shepherd couldn't stay at camp, he'd take off, go down to the ranch, take care of business. But anyway, the shepherd left a dog up there and he didn't come back so the dog would go down the ranch to eat, get something to eat. And they'd feed him, and the dog would lay around, eat, eat some more, loaf around and wouldn't leave until they made him a sack lunch and give it to him in a loose bag, he'd take it, go back to the sheep camp [laughter all around].

AB: An amazing dog, it sounds like.

GP: But eh, my granddad was foreman for the Maish and Driscoll. You know who the Maish and Driscoll was?

MS: This was the Canoa Ranch?

GP: They were money people, and they were politicians also. They bought a lot of land in here. They were in politics involved in Tucson. But, my dad, my granddad was foreman for Maish and Driscoll. And the government had a contract to deliver, I forget how much, how many pounds of beef to each Indian. Amazing, if I remember, seven hundred and forty-two pounds of beef per Indian. And then they used to kid around and buy all the cattle. Then the government passed a regulation that felt that the Indians were entitled to horses, to take care of the livestock. And they set some requirements and they were pretty stiff, that each saddle horse had to meet. There were not enough saddle horses in this part of the country to satisfy the contract. So my granddad went to Mexico starts through word of mouth advertising, and he had all kinds of horses come in. So he selected the horses and brought them in there when he brought them across the lines and he had hundreds of steers, probably several thousand steers, take them over down the valley to Tucson over to Benson, Rillito, over to Willcox, and take them over to San Carlos [Indian reservation]. And he'd take those horses with the steers deliver it to San Carlos. So, next year, they had to have some horses, some more horses, and it turned out to be that my granddad had taken a bunch of horses, and two of those horses came back, came back and my granddad stopped them up there—Sopori-- took them but the horses disappeared. They thought somebody stole them, and my granddad had to go buy some horses, so there the two horses up there.

FR: In Mexico.

AB: In Mexico.

GP: The horses came from San Carlos over to Willcox, trailed back to Mexico. So they owner told my granddad, "Okay, they're your horses, you take 'em." My granddad refused to take them, they came home, he left them home [laughter]. But, it was

interesting, there was a young fellow, Manuel Sanchez and they had a Camp Cameron, Camp Cameron few miles down on, and it was a Camp Cameron, because it was not a permanent camp, it was a hospital area. There was a lot of malaria in this area a lot of water, a lot of malaria, and this camp was abandoned in 1864. Was abandoned. And then, the cowpunchers--the ranchers took it over. They used to have open country, they used to camp out there at the old Camp Cameron. They moved in there one time and they had eight, ten, twelve-year-old kid, and the Indians, the Apache surrounded them. They were going to turn off the water, they used to have water from the creek they used to go down there and turn it off. They knew they didn't have enough water and the Indians would charge them, wouldn't let them get away. And the Indians surrounded them, so, they had this 12-year-old kid, 12-year-old kid, Manuel Sanchez. Manuel Sanchez, they had an idea, the cowpunchers had a real fast mare, they mounted this kid, tied him to the mare, no saddle, nothing, so he could outrun the Indians. They tied this kid to the mare they made a false move, the Indians thought that they were trying to get out, the cowpunchers opened the gate, and the kid outran the Indians. So, they knew that the Indians knew that they were 'gonna come back in full force, helped by the people that were cut off you know. And happened that the kid went up there, passed the word, a lot of people came over and the Indian had abandoned the whole siege. And Manuel Sanchez, turned out to be that this kid was my dad's godfather.

FR: Later on...

GP: He was an eighteen or twenty years old, and my granddad had, staged, a big steer drive. Hundreds of head of cattle. Probably several thousand cattle. Take them down there and because Sabino Otero had tried to combine with my [grand]dad's herds, but my [grand]dad wouldn't combine because Sabino Otero's cattle had been stampeding. So, in Maish and Driscoll, one of the guys came in by train to Willcox and got a buggy, caught up to my granddad's herd, talked it over with my granddad and he said, told him that Sabino had been wanting to combine. Sabino had about 300 head and my [grand]dad told him why he didn't want to combine, he said, "Sabino's cattle had been stampeding." He said, "I don't want my cattle stampeding." So that what Maish and Driscoll, one of them told my [grand]dad "Come on Charlie, be neighborly, combine." So, my [grand]dad combined. And next time they had the biggest stampede they've had in the area. And Manuel Sanchez was a cowboy; Manuel Sanchez was eighteen--twenty year old. He was the only the cowboy missing, with several hundred head of cattle and they tracked him and they found Manuel Sanchez taking care of three hundred, several hundred head of steer.

AB: Well, I think we've taken much of your time...

FR: Well, he...

AB: ...so, we want to thank you so much for talking with us today, it's been great.

MS: Thank you.

GP: And then...I don't know...

FR: It was great to have you...

GP: Do you have any questions or anything that you may ask or didn't cover?

End of Interview